

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in this case. Claims 10-18 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 7-9 are amended by the present amendment. Amended Claims 1 and 7-9 are supported by the original claims, and therefore add no new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7 and 8 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Fukunaga (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,646) as evidenced by Hobson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,744,241, hereinafter "Hobson"). Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fukunaga in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,796,046, hereinafter "Suzuki"). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fukunaga in view of Ream et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,284,373, hereinafter "Ream").

With regard to the objection to Claims 7 and 8, Claims 7 and 8 are amended to correct informalities. Accordingly, the objection to Claims 7 and 8 is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claim 1 is amended to recite in part, "wherein said fluorocarbon resin has a tensile strength such that a 30 μ m coating film baked at 340°C has a tensile strength equal to or greater than 25 MPa." Accordingly, Claims 1-9 are believed to be in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Fukunaga, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent Claim 1 recites:

an elastic layer including heat resistance rubber
provided on a substrate; and

a separation layer including fluorocarbon resin provided on said elastic layer,
wherein said fluorocarbon resin has a tensile strength such that a 30 μ m coating film baked at 340°C has a tensile strength equal to or greater than 25 MPa, and
the separation layer is baked on the elastic layer at a temperature lower than an oxidation starting temperature of the heat resistance rubber.

In contrast, Fukunaga describes a pressing roll including a fluorocarbon resin layer 26 that may be made of FURON resin.¹ The outstanding Office Action cited Hobson as describing that FURON has a tensile strength of 43 MPa.² However, it is respectfully submitted that there is no description how the FURON was made. That is, there is no description in either reference that FURON from Bunnell Plastics Division is baked on an elastic layer, much less that the described FURON has a tensile strength of 25 MPa or greater *after baking at 340 °C*. Accordingly, neither reference teaches “that a 30 μ m coating film *baked at 340°C* has a tensile strength equal to or greater than 25 MPa” or that “the separation layer is baked on the elastic layer *at a temperature lower than an oxidation starting temperature of the heat resistance rubber,*” as recited in amended Claim 1. Consequently, as Fukunaga and Hobson do not teach each and every element of Claim 1, Claim 1 (and Claims 2-9 dependent therefrom) is not anticipated by Fukunaga and is patentable thereover.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 5 and 6 as unpatentable over Fukunaga in view of Suzuki, it is noted that Claims 5 and 6 are dependent from Claim 1, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Suzuki does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Fukunaga. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 5 and 6 are patentable over Fukunaga in view of Suzuki.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 7 and 8 as unpatentable over Fukunaga in view of Ream, it is noted that Claims 7 and 8 are dependent from Claim 1, and thus are believed to

¹See Fukunaga, column 6, lines 18-24.

²See the outstanding Office Action at page 4, lines 13-15.

be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Ream does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Fukunaga. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 7 and 8 are patentable over Fukunaga in view of Ream.

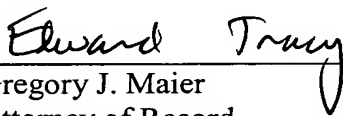
Accordingly, the pending claims and the present application are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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